

# ADAMS CWMA 2003 END OF YEAR REPORT



**Adams County's new spray truck!**

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And  
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## **Introduction**

The Adams Cooperative Weed Management Area began in 2001 as a means to bring together private landowners and others responsible for weed management. The group developed common goals and priorities and looked for ways to share resources and find funding to combat the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. A strategic plan was developed that included a prioritized list of known noxious weeds and new invaders.

The goals of the Adams CWMA are to prevent introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious and invasive weeds, to reduce established infestations, to inform the public about the harm exotic weeds cause and to implement an integrated weed control system. The group also chose to support the county's weed program and to help obtain the tools, equipment and personnel necessary for an effective program.

The Adams CWMA encompasses all of Adams County in west central Idaho, including portions of the upper Weiser River and upper Little Salmon watersheds.

There are nineteen (19) listed species of noxious weeds within the Adams CWMA and several others that are of concern in the area. Our number one priority weeds are Mediterranean sage, Orange hawkweed, Dyers woad, Hoary cress, Perennial pepperweed, Yellow starthistle, Diffuse knapweed and Leafy spurge. These weeds are the main focus of our group activities each year.

The Adams CWMA chairperson is Julie Burkhardt. Mike Correia is the vice-chairperson and Meribeth Lomkin is the recording secretary. Cooperators in the Adams CWMA include private landowners, USDA Forest Service, USDI BLM, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Dept. of Transportation, University of Idaho Cooperative Extension, Adams Soil Conservation District, Idaho Power, Friends of Weiser River Trail and the Adams County Commission. A list of all cooperators for 2003 is listed in the appendix.

The Adams CWMA steering committee considers 2003 another highly successful year. The program has grown significantly and we have been able to secure funding for some much-needed equipment and a full time weed superintendent.

## **2003 Project Summary**

### **Full Time Weed Supervisor/ RAC Grant**

One of the biggest accomplishments in 2003 was the implementation of a plan to fund a full time weed supervisor. Adams County, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service all contributed a portion of the salary. We are fortunate to have Becky Snorgrass as our weed department supervisor in Adams County. Becky brings a wealth of knowledge to the job and now she can be paid for all her hard work! Adams County furnished benefits, office space in the Extension building and a used pickup truck. The group was then able to apply for a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant for office equipment, a small truck for mapping and light duty and a new, heavy-duty flatbed pickup with a computerized spray system. Some of the equipment was purchased last year but the spray truck was this year's purchase. The RAC grant totaled \$49,085.00. The group is very proud of this accomplishment and is working toward a future RAC grant to house our new equipment and the weed supervisor.

### **Wildfire Burn Project**

This has been a very large and successful project for our CWMA. In the three years that we have worked on this burn project, 15,050 acres were mapped with GPS and many hundreds more were surveyed by the landowners. Over 84 square miles of land lies within the burn treatment area. This represents 20% of the 265,355 acres of private land within the CWMA. Weeds treated in the burn area included Rush skeletonweed (the largest invader), Scotch thistle, Leafy spurge, Diffuse knapweed, Hoary cress, Perennial pepperweed, Purple loosestrife, Poison hemlock and Canada thistle. Most of the area treated is very steep and rocky terrain. ATVs, backpacks and a skid tank unit were the most used equipment in these areas. About 1,165 acres were reseeded by air, tractor and drill, ATV, horseback and on foot. 111 individual landowners participated for one or more years.

The Adams CWMA wishes to thank member Ferrel Crossley for his time and efforts during this three-year project. Ferrel spent many hours distributing herbicides to landowners, storing herbicides and equipment, keeping equipment clean and in working order, and slaying many, many weeds. His efforts are very much appreciated.

### **Big Bar Project**

This project was located on US Forest Service land in Hells Canyon. A group of four CWMA members spent a day in April surveying and mapping the 109-acre project area. In late May, a crew of 18 people braved the steep slopes to attack our main target, Diffuse knapweed. Other weeds treated were Poison hemlock, Scotch thistle, Hoary cress, Dalmatian toadflax, Perennial pepperweed, Houndstongue, Puncturevine and Japanese knotweed. Cooperators on the project included Western Whitewater Association, US Forest Service, Friends of Weiser River Trail, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Idaho Power, Adams County Weed Control and CWMA steering committee members. The group used backpack sprayers, ATVs and pickups with spray tanks. Adams County Weed Control made two additional trips to the area to check treatment effects and spot treat any missed areas.



Big Bar Crew in Hells Canyon



Tiny backpackers hike over steep hillside to spray

### **Spotted Knapweed Project**

2003 was the second year of treatment on the Highway 95 and Highway 55 corridors. Parts of 23 days were spent treating 41.4 miles of Highway 95 and 10.5 miles of Highway 55. These two highways represent major weed spread corridors in our CWMA. Close monitoring and treatment is a priority. Adams County contracted with Idaho County to do the work along the Little Salmon River on the boundary between the two counties. Adams CWMA provided the treatment products and paid the wages while Idaho County provided the equipment. The Payette National Forest, New Meadows Ranger District did most of the work on Highway 55.

The pretty but  
dreaded spotted  
knapweed



### **Orange Hawkweed Project**

Six New Meadows landowners with known infestations of Orange hawkweed had their property treated by CWMA weed warrior Mike Correia. Mike convinced these landowners that treating Orange hawkweed was good for their property values and for the land. On a workday in September, a crew of six people use backpack sprayers to treated areas under trees, through brush, tall grass and around slash. The group treated the Orange Hawkweed on approximately 50 acres during the workday.

Landowners and the County weed department treated four additional infestations this year.

### **Yellow Starthistle Project**

A crew of seven people spent one day on the 80 acre Yellow Starthistle project area near Goodrich. The crew used backpack sprayers to treat steep south-facing slopes where small patches and single plants were hiding. ATVs were used on some of the less steep slopes and two isolated patches were monitored and treated. This seems to be a successful project since the plants are getting harder to find and less time is being spent on the project.

### **Mediterranean Sage Project**

In 2003, volunteers spent over 550 man-hours on the 4<sup>th</sup> year of treatment of known infestations of “Med sage”. Scattered plants infest about 520 acres in a nine square mile area near Council. Many hours were spent on foot and ATV surveying and treating the area through native sagebrush rangeland for this elusive tumbleweed. This year’s wet spring allowed many seeds to germinate and many seedlings were found and treated. However, since eradication is our goal, several more years of treatment and monitoring will be necessary before we can declare victory. The group believes progress is being made. The 2002 and 2003 treatment costs were paid for by a grant from Montana State University’s Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM).

### **Dyers Woad Project**

There are three small infestations of Dyers woad that have been treated for the past four years. It seems that the Escort® treatment has not been as successful as expected since many large plants are still being found. The conclusion is that the Escort treatments may not be reaching the plants roots. This year most plants were hand pulled and bagged and rosettes and seedlings were treated with Telar®.





Extra large Dyers woad plant dwarfs ATV



Champion weed fighter Patty Heldt in Dyers woad

### **Whitetop/ Perennial Pepperweed Project**

Whitetop (Hoary cress) and Perennial pepperweed are both top priority weeds in the Adams CWMA. There are about 30 very small infestations in the southern part of the county. Adams County Weed Control and landowners working with the CWMA have treated all known locations for the past three years. Infestations show some evidence of reduction but results have not been as good as expected. In 2003 Telar® was used in place of Escort®. Results will be monitored. A trial on both Perennial pepperweed and Hoary cress using Plateau® was done this year. Perhaps results will show this to be a useful herbicide. Each year we seem to find more very small infestations. Most of these can be traced to contaminated hay or alfalfa seed.



Small patches of Whitetop like these were likely brought in with contaminated hay.

### **Bio Control Projects**

This spring the Adams County weed supervisor and three BLM employees made a trip to an area near Arco, ID to collect Leafy spurge beetles. 15,000 of the collected beetles were brought back for release in the Adams CWMA. Approximately 10,000 beetles were released on two sites in the Bacon Creek area and another 5,000 were released on a site near the Little Weiser River.

The Adams CWMA, BLM and Montana State University are cooperating on a research project to test a new Rush skeletonweed root moth. The first small

colony of moth larvae was placed on a site this summer. Spot checks late this fall revealed that larvae appear to have survived and had killed one plant. If these insects can survive the winter, a larger colony will be released next summer. We are very hopeful that this new bio-control will prove more successful than other pathogens and insects have to date.

Galerucella beetles were released on a large infestation of Purple loosestrife in 1999. Observations last year showed significant success in eliminating this 80-acre stand. No plants were observed on the 2003 CWMA Tour in late June but later in the season seedlings had appeared. The area will be monitored to see whether the plants and the beetles will return. A Purple loosestrife site in Indian Valley, treated with herbicides in 2002, was monitored this summer. The weed supervisor had intended to release some beetles into an area that had been too difficult to reach with herbicides. We were surprised to find that beetles already had colonized this site. Where the beetles came from is unknown since this is a fairly isolated site and very little Purple loosestrife exists in the valley. Continued monitoring will show whether the beetles do their work.



Becky shows results of Purple loosestrife bio-control



Bucket o' Bugs! Leafy spurge beetles to go

### **Winter Weed Seminar**

The Adams CWMA hosted another successful education and information session in January 2003. 62 people attended a packed house program. We invited Hugh Bunten from Lakeview, Oregon to talk about using goats as a management tool. He was very entertaining and well received by the group. Dr. Tim Prather was good enough to travel to Council to talk about revegetation and what grasses are best to use. Dean Gaiser from Dow Agro spoke about small sprayer calibration and the importance of making sure you do calibrate your equipment. This type of program seems well received and many people gave positive feedback. These programs are fairly inexpensive (except for travel expenses) and easy to organize. They remain one of our best education tools and we were able to draw a number of people who had not attended previous programs.



## Summer Weed Tour

The weed tour is growing! If trends continue, a second bus may be needed next year. We had 45 attendees on this year's tour that focused on the central part of Adams County. Tour participants viewed a weed of concern, Sulfur cinquefoil and some of the experimental treatments as explained by Dr. Tim Prather from University of Idaho. Other tour stops included a look at Japanese knotweed, Purple loosestrife bio-control site, Common Tansy, Spotted knapweed, Common bugloss, Perennial pepperweed, Mediterranean sage and Leafy spurge. The group discussed what the CWMA is doing overall. Roger Batt from the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign talked about what the Campaign is doing to raise awareness around the state with their commercials, signs and other information tools. Danielle Bruno of ISDA gave an update on weed legislation and support for the CWMA's. The Adams Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the tour lunch.



Tour participants check out a healthy Houndstongue



Sulfur cinquefoil test plots near Council

## County Fair Weed Booth

The Adams CWMA again set up our display at the Adams County Fair and Rodeo in July 2003. We chose not to man the booth this year but put out plenty of booklets and brochures. As always, those items were well received and we had compliments on the booth.

## Weed Booklet Project

We received funding last year for this project but were unable to complete the work. The funds were carried over to 2003. We are pleased to note that as this is written, the booklet is going to print and will be available for our 2004 education and information efforts. This booklet lists all noxious weeds found within our boundaries and also details some weeds of concern and new invaders that landowners should be on the lookout for. Photographs accompany each of the 28 species and a section is included on treatments. The treatment section lists

herbicide treatments, non-chemical treatments, biological controls and prevention strategies.

### **Leafy Spurge Coloring Book**

The Lower Weiser CWMA developed this clever coloring book in conjunction with their Leafy spurge goat-grazing project. It tells a story about how goats learn to graze certain plants and why people want them to eat weeds. The Lower Weiser CWMA wanted to print more of the books but they were not certain of the funding for another run. Our group chose to participate by contributing \$500 to the project and will receive some of the books for use within our area. This is an excellent way to teach our next generation of land stewards about noxious weeds.

### **Mapping and Inventory**

Most of the mapping and inventory work in 2003 was done throughout the field season in conjunction with treatment projects. Parts of at least 68 days were spent on GPS work and a total of 962 acres were mapped.

### **Plans for 2004**

The work in 2004 will be nearly the same as in the previous 3 years in terms of projects. The main difference will be that the areas affected by the burn will no longer be a major workload. The exceptions will be those weed species that are on our top priority list such as Leafy spurge and any new invaders. Those species will continue to be a target for control activities. Additional releases of *Aphthona* spp. Beetles on Leafy spurge are planned for 2004.

Education and information priorities will be approximately the same with a winter evening weed seminar and a summer weed tour. These have proven to be a very effective means of distributing information and have been well received by the public. The new weed booklets will be ready for distribution after the first of 2004.

Mapping will be a part of each of our projects. This is necessary so we can assess progress and focus workday efforts where needed.

### **2003 Adams CWMA Cooperators/Contributors**

Adams County Commissioners

Adams County Weed Control

Adams County Road and Bridge

Adams Soil Conservation District

Council Rod and Gun Club

Friends of Weiser River Trail

Idaho County

Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Idaho Power  
Idaho Department of Transportation  
Idaho Department of Lands  
USDA Forest Service- Payette National Forest  
USDI Bureau of Land Management  
University of Idaho Cooperative Extension  
Western Whitewater Association  
Private landowners

## **Appendix I**

### **ADAMS COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA**

#### **2002-2003 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

##### **Landowner members:**

Julie Burkhardt- Committee chair 2410 Little Weiser Rd. Indian Valley, ID 83632	256-4437	<a href="mailto:truly@ctcweb.net">truly@ctcweb.net</a>
Dean Dryden PO Box New Meadows, ID 83654	347-2445	<a href="mailto:ddryden@frontiernet.net">ddryden@frontiernet.net</a>
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Patty Heldt- Friends of Weiser River Trail 3447 Rush Creek Rd.	257-3564	<a href="mailto:pjheldt@ctcweb.net">pjheldt@ctcweb.net</a>

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**Partners:**

Adams County Weed Control Becky Snorgrass, Weed Supervisor PO Box 358 Council, ID 83612	253-4669	<a href="mailto:weeds@co.adams.id.us">weeds@co.adams.id.us</a>
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Jack Gant- Idaho Department of Transportation	334-8910	<a href="mailto:Jgant@itd.state.id.us">Jgant@itd.state.id.us</a>
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Gary Holmstead- Idaho Power	388-2369	<a href="mailto:gholmstead@idahopower.com">gholmstead@idahopower.com</a>
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Gordon Keetch- UI Cooperative Extension	253-4279	<a href="mailto:gkeetch@uidaho.edu">gkeetch@uidaho.edu</a>
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Brenda Waters- Idaho Dept. of Agriculture	332-8667	<a href="mailto:bwaters@agri.state.id.us">bwaters@agri.state.id.us</a>
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Judy Ellis- Adams Co. Commissioner 256-4440 [wollydog@ctcweb.net](mailto:wollydog@ctcweb.net)

Mike Paradis Adams Co. Commissioner 253-4458 [mjpara@ctcweb.net](mailto:mjpara@ctcweb.net)

**Financial Administrator**

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1805 Highway 16 Room 2  
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<b>Appendix II</b>		
<b>Project Summaries:</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Weed Species</b>	<b>Gross Acres treated</b>
<b>Priority #1 Weed Treatment</b>		
Acres Treated	Med. Sage	520
	Whitetop/Perennial Pepperweed	205
	Dyer's Woad	11.5
	Yellow Starthistle	48
	Orange Hawkweed	70
	Knapweed	2100
Acres Mapped		465
<b>Burn Project</b>		
Acres Treated	Rush skeletonweed	4052
	Scotch thistle	381
	Leafy spurge	392
	Canada thistle	450
	Spotted knapweed	0.75
	Diffuse knapweed	58
	Poison hemlock	0.01
	Dalmation toadflax	0.1
	Puncture vine	17.4
	Field bindweed	1
	Teasel	15
	Houndstongue	34
	Sulfur cinquefoil	12.8
	Tansy	3
	Bull thistle	15
	Medusahead rye	1.3
	Cocklebur	2.5
	Curlycup gumweed	15
	other (fence rows, ditch & canal banks)	740
Acres Mapped		497.53
Acres Reseeded in 2003		310
Bio-Control Release	Leafy spurge	45
	<b>Total Acres Treated</b>	<b>10462.89</b>

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